

eNewsletter

A Message from the Dean:

New, Smiling Faces Arrive to Cap a Great Summer



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

The new academic year is off to a terrific start, and our largest entering class ever now has two months of law school under its collective belt. RWU Law's Class of 2012 is academically strong, has a remarkable range of work and volunteer experience, and will be taught by one of the strongest faculties in the Northeast – which, by the way, just got stronger thanks to two key additions (more on that in a moment).

But first, here is a snapshot of the Class of 2012: Drawn from an applicant pool up 21 percent over last year (way above the national and regional average), the 209 students who matriculated last month have some of the strongest academic credentials in our school's history.

A quarter of them hail from the Ocean State while another third are from elsewhere in New England. They come from more than 100 undergraduate institutions from within the U.S. and abroad (including Georgetown, Harvard, Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Wellesley, Brown, Vassar, Tufts, Colby, Wesleyan, Grinnell, Tulane, Chicago, GW and NYU) with the top feeder schools being University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Providence College, Roger Williams, U-Mass Amherst and Boston University.

New Faculty



Besides our 209 new students, we have added two supremely talented teacher/scholars to our already-strong faculty. The multilingual **Mary Holper** comes to us from Boston College, where she was a visiting assistant professor and ran an Immigration Law Clinic, which is also her primary assignment at RWU Law.

She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Illinois, and earned her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Boston College. She is going to be an excellent mentor to the student-lawyers she will oversee in her clinic.

Members of the Class of 2012 have led the charge against legalized prostitution here in Rhode Island, canvassed for Greenpeace, helped mobilize Latino voters and demonstrated for gay rights. One worked at Mother Theresa's orphanage, and others assisted the blind in India and worked with disadvantaged kids in South Africa. One class member fought in Iraq and many helped rebuild New Orleans after Katrina. We also have a staffer from the Obama campaign, as well as one from the McCain campaign – not to mention leaders from a remarkable array of co-curricular activities.



Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Suttell
administering oath of professionalism



The other new faculty face is **Tanya Monester**, who like Mary, arrives at RWU with both a sterling academic record and law-teaching experience. Tanya, a Canadian, graduated #1 in her class at Osgoode Hall (generally considered Canada's top law school), and continued her studies at Cambridge University, where she graduated with First Class Honors. After clerkking for a justice on the Supreme Court of Canada, she practiced for two years at a major U.S. pharmaceutical company before joining the law faculty at Queen's College. Tanya will teach Contracts and continue her scholarly research on complex litigation.



LEADING LAWYERS: Defining Success in Work & Life
CYNTHIA THOMAS CALVERT ESQ.

Deputy Director of WorkLife Law Center of UC Hastings College of Law

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, RI

Appellate Courtroom 283

Part of the Women Who Lead Series & the Fall 2009 Feinstein Institute Public Interest Speaker Series

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Cynthia Thomas Calvert, Esq.

Barrier Update: The Glass Ceiling and Maternal Wall in Law Firms Today

Cynthia Thomas Calvert is the co-director of the Project for Attorney Retention ("PAR"), at the Center for WorkLife Law. The Center studies law firms' retention and advancement of female attorneys and work/life issues in legal employment. As one of its hallmarks, PAR works with all stakeholders to develop practical solutions to issues of attorney retention and the advancement of women lawyers.

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

PANEL PRESENTATION: Women Who Broke Through

Moderator: Mary Holper, Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law

This panel will feature women who have broken through the "glass ceiling," focusing on the path these women followed to their current position, including how they overcame challenges along the way.

Beverly Ledbetter, Brown University

The Honorable Judith Savage, RI Superior Court

Patricia Sullivan, Edwards, Angell, Palmer & Dodge LLP

Miriam Weizenbaum, Delina & Weizenbaum Ltd.

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

BREAK

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

PANEL PRESENTATION: Balancing the Scales

Moderator: Colleen Murphy Professor, Roger Williams University School of Law

This panel will explore the strategies that women practitioners implement in their professional careers to address work/life issues, highlighting different ways that they both define and achieve success.

Patricia Andrews Law Offices of Patricia Andrews

Online Galvez-Sniffen, Catholic Social Services of Fall River

Martha Holt, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI

Olayinka Oredugba, City of Providence

5:00 p.m.

RECEPTION Law School, 2nd Floor Atrium

RSVPs are requested but not required.

Please email Feinstein.Institute@rwu.edu if you plan to attend.

A collaboration of the RWU School of Law, Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, Office of Career Services, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of Diversity and Outreach, Women's Law Society and the RI Women's Bar Association.